

ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

Introduction

Each person will draw a CHARACTER CARD with two identities: one, a **Home Identity**; the other, a **Field Army Identity**. Both identities are described in the next few pages.

HOME IDENTITY

Civil War journals

During the 1800s many people kept diaries and journals. Here they wrote about the feelings, experiences, and events that affected their lives. Through journals and other primary sources such as letters, historians gain an intimate understanding of important historical events. During this unit, you will write in a journal as our ancestors wrote more than a hundred years ago. In your home identity are important facts about a person who may have lived during the Civil War period. During CIVIL WAR you will become not only that home person but also a relative of that person fighting in the war.

Depending on your character, events that you learn about in the War Office dispatches are events you should write about in your journal. Your reaction (in character) to those historical events will be different from someone else's. For instance, if you're a Northern member of Congress, your reaction to the first shots of the war will be quite different from a Southern planter. Some of you will portray prestigious soldiers or officials. Others will be freed slaves, sailors, or just "common folks." But whoever you are, you will learn much about what it was like to live in this important historical era.



Today I realized ...

Journal requirements

1. Each entry should be between three-quarters of a page to a full page.
2. Each entry should be dated parallel to the events in the simulation.
3. You should write two entries per Civil War year or cycle. (**Note:** Write one entry each year from your HOME IDENTITY perspective and one entry from your FIELD IDENTITY perspective—see page 13.) Thus, your journal will be at least 10 pages long—with the possibility of being even longer. (See #8 below.)
4. Your writing should always be historically accurate. Avoid modern slang and references to inventions and conveniences not yet in use or people not yet born.
5. Fill your entries with events, people, and life from the Civil War era. Try to write conversationally as you might write a letter to a friend today.
6. Each entry must have reference to terms and reactions of the particular character on the CHARACTER CARD you were given. *Be that person!*
7. **The ideal to strive for:** In each entry include at least four historical facts obtained from the dispatches, destiny dice, glossary, or readings and lectures to which you are exposed. *Before submitting your journals, underline or highlight the historical facts in each entry with a highlighter pen.*
8. Besides the required 10 minimum pages, your teacher may require three further optional tasks:
 - One page of an autobiography based on your Civil War person, "fleshing out" the sketchy information given to you on your CHARACTER CARD. Having more "layers" to your character will help you make the character seem real. Fabricate your person's life until 1861, when the war breaks out.